AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-4. (Cancel)

5. (Original) A method of diagnosing cardiac disease in an individual, comprising the step of identifying cleavage of SRF in at least one cell from a sample from said individual.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the sample is from a tissue of the individual.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the tissue is cardiac tissue.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the cardiac tissue is ventricular tissue.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the identifying step is further defined as

~~obtaining a sample from an individual suspected of having cardiac failure; and~~

comparing levels of cleaved SRF in ~~said sample~~ a sample from an individual suspected of having cardiac failure with a known control reflective of levels of cleaved SRF in non-failing cardiac tissue, wherein when said sample comprises elevated levels of cleaved SRF compared to said control, said individual suspected of having cardiac failure has a positive diagnosis for cardiac failure.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the identifying step comprises immunoblot analysis for said cleaved SRF.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the immunoblot analysis comprises an antibody against a region of SRF.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the region of SRF is an N-terminal region or a C-terminal region.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the N-terminal region comprises at least a portion of amino acid sequence encoded by the first coding exon of a SRF polynucleotide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the N-terminal region comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

15. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said cardiac disease is further defined as cardiac failure.

16.-41. (Cancel)